

# EDITORIAL

**T**he positive effects of the new state model in Spain, what we call the state of the autonomies, are beginning to make themselves felt. At a local level, the democratic town halls have managed to bring the administration closer to the general public and it is now possible to see important urban transformations which contribute to improving the standard of living. At the level of the autonomous governments, the country's administration has been made more rational and more dynamic. This issue of CATALÒNIA reports on a series of projects undertaken by Obres Públiques de la Generalitat de Valencia and in the Balearic Isles. In the territorial planning and public works lies autonomous communities. Hopefully, the shown in these fields will not be limited government in Madrid. We Catalans want to see the structures of the old centralist state gradually replaced, so that the four cultural areas of which the country is composed can exercise financial, political and cultural responsibility.



the "Departament de Política Territorial i Catalunya". There is similar activity in Catalan cultural area, responsibility for chiefly with the governments of the autonomy which the administration has by inadequate funds from the central

A few weeks ago, a number of Catalan non-government organizations addressed an open letter to the president of the Spanish government, expressing concern over the central government's reluctance to make the state of the autonomies operative. Over the last few years, we have begun to feel that the trend towards the reconstruction of the centralist state is a danger to the political stability resulting from the new, democratic constitutional order. It is obvious that the only possibility of a peaceful future for Spain involves full

recognition of her different nationalities and of their desire for home rule within a common framework. The Spanish model could collapse if it were subjected to discriminatory, centralist criteria. Democratic stability depends on the full recognition of the equal dignity of the Castilian, Catalan, Galician and Basque cultures, and on the creation of an economic and political structure which gives these nations the chance to operate without forced dependencies. Over the next few years, at any rate as regards Catalonia, the system by which home rule is financed will have to be reconsidered. A recent report by the

Jaume Bofill Foundation, "Ingressos i despeses del sector públic a Catalunya", reveals the disproportion between the taxes the central state receives from Catalonia and the amount of money returned to Catalonia by the administration. Before long we shall be reporting on



important new initiatives in territorial organization. Barcelona airport is going to be transformed in the next few months. Plans are being completed for the arrival in Barcelona of the TGV (High Speed Train), linking us with Paris and Madrid. The infrastructure for the roads and developments connected with the Olympic Games will have advanced. Both the work undertaken recently and the projects being designed are expressions of a culture –that of the Catalans– which aims at a territorial administration combining technological innovation, political determination, protection of the environment, traditional roots, future perspectives and options in favour of a model of co-existence which respects the multidimensional nature of human beings.

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